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INFORMATION NOTE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY ONE

Tsunami Relief Update.

Six months after the severe tsunami in Asia, the Sovereign Order of Malta is continuing the relief effort in India, Thailand, Sri Lanka, and Indonesia. In cooperation with local partner organizations the Order is currently assisting in 50 rehabilitation projects in the region, including the building of 650 emergency shelters in Sri Lanka and 400 in India. In addition to providing psycho-social support for traumatized victims, these shelters also supply much needed clean water.

With the rehabilitation of six orphanages, special care is being given to children affected by the crisis. In cooperation with the diocese of Kottar, the Order of Malta is reconstructing and refurbishing 16 schools for about 7,000 pupils along the southwest coast of India, in the severely damaged district of Kanyakumari, where the families of nearly 15,000 people have been affected by the tsunami.

The Order of Malta has signed contracts for the rehabilitation of 1,000 houses in Sri Lanka and is overseeing the construction of houses in Ban Bansak, Thailand. Also in Thailand, the Order is overseeing the water supply for the entire island of Kho Kho Khao. All projects include income-generating measures, such as the construction of fishing boats, or crash courses for builders, who are urgently needed in the reconstruction effort. Altogether, 500 families in this region will be back on their feet economically as a result of the Order's projects.

New York, June 29, 2005